

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02 STR-04
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 L-03 /066 W
-----030230Z 096409 /73

R 021553Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9725
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USDEL MTN GENEVA

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, BE
SUBJECT: BELGIAN REACTION TO EC FARM PRICE PACKAGE

BEGIN SUMMARY. BELGIANS GENERALLY NOT PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF
1977-78 EC FARM PRICE PACKAGE AND FEEL THEY LOST ON ALL POINTS.
HOWEVER, NUMBER ONE OBJECTION WAS ATTITUDE OF UK MINISTER OF
AGRICULTURE SILKIN. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING PRIVATE CONVERSATION, HIGH LEVEL MOA OFFICIAL COMPLAINED
ABOUT ATTITUDE OF UK MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, SILKIN, AND MANNER
IN WHICH HE CHAIRED RECENT MEETINGS. BELGIANS FEEL SILKIN
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REPRESENTS CONSUMER NOT AGRICULTURE INTERESTS, AND THAT UK APPEARS
TO BE NATIONAL RATHER THAN EUROPEAN MINDED.

2. CONCERNING NEW PRICES, BELGIANS ORIGINALLY SUPPORTED COPA DEMAND
FOR AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 7.4 PERCENT, WITH EXPECTATION FINAL
RESULT WOULD BE ABOUT 5 PERCENT. WHILE AGRICULTURE MINISTERS
AGREED TO OVERALL 3.5 PERCENT INCREASE, BASED ON BELGIAN

PRODUCTION, MOA CALCULATES ACTUAL INCREASE FOR BELGIAN FARMERS
WILL AVERAGE 4.3 PERCENT.

3. ALTHOUGH NOT PLEASED WITH NEW FARM PACKAGE, BELGIANS BELIEVE
THEY WERE ABLE TO SOTEN SOME OBJECTIONABLE PROPOSALS. FOR EXAMPLE,
BELGIUM WAS OPPOSED TO DAIRY PRODUCER CO-RESPONSIBILITY TAX WHICH,
ALTHOUGH ADOPTED, WAS REDUCED TO 1.5 PERCENT AND WILL BE
IMPLEMENTED ON SEPTEMBER 1 INSTEAD OF MAY 1. MOA OFFICIAL CREDITS
MINISTER LAVENS WITH THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT.

4. ON PRIVATE BASIS, FARM ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN RESTRAINED IN
COMPLAINING TO MOA SINCE LAVENS HAD STRONGLY SUPPORTED COPA
PROPOSALS. HOWEVER, PUBLICALLY THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE EXPRESSED
STRONG DISPLEASURE WITH PACKAGE ITSELF AND WITH BRITISH ATTITUDE.
DAIRY PRODUCERS PARTICULARLY UPSET ABGUT DELAY UNTIL MAY 1 OF MILK
PRICE INCREASE, SINCE APRIL MILK PRODUCTION NORMALLY ACCOUNTS FOR
ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF ANNUAL OUTPUT. ONE PRODUCER ORGANIZATION HAS
SUGGESTED AG. MINISTERS SHOULD REVIEW PRICE PACKAGE IN SEPTEMBER
AND CONSIDER RAISING PRICES AT THAT TIME.

5. FARM ORGANIZATIONS MAY ASK GOVERNMENT FOR NATIONAL AIDS, I.E.,
TVA RELIEF, ETC.; HOWEVER, MOA OFFICIAL DOES NOT BELIEVE ANY AIDS
WILL BE GRANTED. MOA ESTIMATES THAT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF 1977-78
EC FARM PACKAGE, SUCH AS UK BUTTER SUBSIDY, ITALIAN DURUM SCHEME,
ETC., MAY COST BELGIAN TREASURY AS MUCH AS 2 BILLION FRANCS.
CONSEQUENTLY, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY MINISTRY OF FINANCE WILL AGREE
TO ANY SIGNIFICANT NATIONAL AIDS.RENNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC ATTITUDES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS, AGRICULTURAL PRICE SUPPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRUSSE04399
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770153-1043
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197705105/aaaadmwc.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 25836088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2335673
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGIAN REACTION TO EC FARM PRICE PACKAGE BEGIN SUMMARY. BELGIANS GENERALLY NOT PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF 1977-78 EC FARM PRICE PACKAGE AND FEEL THEY LOST O
TAGS: EAGR, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/25836088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009